

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18-24, 2009

The Church Calendar

January 20 – Fabian, *Bishop and Martyr*

Fabian was Bishop of Rome for 14 years. He organized the city of Rome into parishes and appointed scribes to record the lives of the martyrs for posterity. When the Emperor Decius began a persecution of Christians, probably the first one to be waged simultaneously in all parts of the Empire, Fabian was one of the first to be put to death, setting a courageous example for others. His tombstone, with the inscription dimly visible, can still be seen at Rome.

Collect: O God, who in thy providence didst call thy servant Fabian to the office of Bishop, and didst guide him so to strengthen thy Church that it stood fast in the day of persecution: Grant that those whom thou dost call to any ministry in the Church may be obedient to thy call in all humility, and be enabled to carry out their tasks with diligence and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

January 22 – Vincent of Saragossa, *Deacon and Martyr*

The title line above states almost all that is certainly known about Vincent, the earliest Spanish martyr whose name is known to us. It is said that he was brought to trial along with his bishop Valerius, and that since Valerius had a speech impediment, Vincent spoke for both, and that his fearless manner so angered the governor that Vincent was tortured and killed, though his aged bishop was only exiled.

Collect: Almighty God, whose deacon Vincent, upheld by thee, was not terrified by threats nor overcome by torments: Strengthen us, we beseech thee, to endure all adversity with invincible and steadfast faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(Taken from James Keifer's Hagiographies)

The Daily Office

V: O Lord, open my lips;

R: and my mouth will declare your praise

V: Make haste, O God, to + deliver me;

R: make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

The Readings (Sunday-Saturday)

	Psalmody	Old Testament	New Testament
Sun	44:1-26	Ezekiel 40:1-4;43:1-12	Romans 8:18-39
Mon	15	Ezekiel 44:1-16,23-29	Romans 9:1-18
Tue	117	Ezekiel 47:1-14,21-23	Romans 9:19-33
Wed	20	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21
Thu	69:19-33	Joel 2:1-17	Romans 11:1-24
Fri	139:1-14	Joel 2:18-32	Romans 11:25-12:13
Sat	131	Joel 3:1-21	Romans 12:14-13:14

Optional: Large Catechism III 85 – IV 55

The Catechism - The Lord's Prayer

Intro - **Our Father who art in heaven.**

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

1. Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly kept holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!

But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer (prayed together)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver + us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Creed (confessed by all)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting . Amen.

The Litany

V: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: And let my cry come to You.

V: In the day of my trouble I call to you

R: For You answer me.

V: Hide Your face from my sins.

R: And blot out all my iniquity.

V: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

R: And renew a right spirit within me.

V: Do not cast me away from Your presence.

R: And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

V: Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

R: And uphold me with a willing Spirit.

V: Because Your lovingkindness is better than life.

R: My lips shall praise You

V: Because You have been my help.

R: Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

V: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth.

R: Give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name.

V: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

R: I will glorify Your name forever.

V: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

R: May those who love Your salvation always say, Let God be exalted.

V: Save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

R: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

V: Hear my prayer, O Lord.

R: Listen to my cry for mercy.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Thy people and grant us Thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

In our prayers: Pastor, Jackie Caudill, Doug Thomas, Sam Cooper, Caleb Ekin

Luther's Evening Prayer (prayed together)

I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

V: Let us bless the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

V: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, + and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.